

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 3 and 16-24, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a substrate, comprising:

- providing a substrate having a surface;
- forming a polymeric layer on the surface of the substrate by electrophoretically applying a layer of a polymeric precursor to at least a portion of the surface;
- polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a polymerized layer; and
- applying a metal coating to at least a portion of the polymerized layer;

wherein the metal coating is applied under sub-atmospheric conditions, and wherein the step of forming the polymerized layer includes elevating the temperature of the polymeric precursor to a temperature of at least about 320°F.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)